

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner indicated that claims 1, 3-4 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent No. 5,933,831 issued to Jorgensen ("Jorgensen") in view of US Patent No. 6,628,091 issued to Miura et al ("Miura").

Applicant has amended claim 1 to correct a typographical error (i.e., changing "link tables" to "link table") and to further clarify that the computer-implemented method "automatically assigns" the foreign key attribute in the user data model a given attribute associated with said one of said plurality of said other tables. This assignment aspect is discussed in the specification at, for example, page 25 lines 9-29 and adds no new matter.

Jorgensen simply does not disclose "automatically assigning said foreign key " (such as "SUPPLIER_ID 1004 in link table 1000 in the example of Fig. 10) "a given attribute associated with one of said plurality of other tables, said given attribute is an attribute arbitrarily selected from attributes of said one of said plurality of other tables." In the example of Fig. 10, this assignment results in assigning the attribute "NAME" of table 1012 to the foreign key SUPPLIER_ID in the second user data model being created.

Accordingly, when the second user data model is employed to generate the dereferenced table, the dereferenced table shows "content associated with said given attribute in a given record of said one of said other tables for a value associated with said foreign key attribute in said link table." In the current example, the dereferenced table shows the content of the attribute "NAME" for the value associated with the foreign attribute "SUPPLIER_ID."

The result is seen in Fig 13 wherein the dereferenced table now shows the content of the given attribute "NAME" of table 1012 (i.e., "ACME TECHNOLOGIES") is displayed instead of the value of the foreign attribute "SUPPLIER_ID" (i.e., "15" in Fig. 10).

Jorgensen, at best, shows a hyperlinked entity relationship diagram in which tables associated with the primary keys and foreign keys are hyperlinked. Specifically, when a foreign key icon is selected, Jorgensen "sets the current table to the table identified by the foreign key associated with the actuated foreign key icon (that is, the entity's parent table." See Jorgensen column 5, lines 60-67, discussing step 348. Once step 348 of Fig. 3C of Jorgensen is displayed,

Jorgensen's method returns to step 306 (via arrow C) to display the entire parent table, including the header (308), and all the information in the parent table.

Thus, Jorgensen cannot pinpoint, in the manner claimed in claim 1, the dereferencing to a particular attribute in the parent table (such as to attribute "NAME" in table 1012 of Fig. 10). Jorgensen allows the user to step from table to table following the primary key-foreign key hyperlinks, but there is no creation or display of a table that shows the relationship between a record in a link table (i.e., child table in Jorgensen) and a specific attribute in the parent table in the manner recited in amended claim 1 and shown in Fig. 13, for example.

Claim 1 also has been amended to recite that the dereferenced table includes both "a value of said link table record ID attribute and content associated with said given attribute in a given record of said one of said other tables." Again, it is this association between a record of the link table (by the link table record ID) and the specific assigned attribute of the record in the other table (by the value of the assigned attribute) in the manner claimed that is missing in Jorgensen. There is no single, automatically created table in Jorgensen that conveniently shows that for this record of the link table, this is the value of the attribute in the other link table.

Miura discloses that the intermediate link table, including link information, can be created. However, Miura again simply shows relationships between tables, not a relationship between a record in a link table (i.e., child table in Jorgensen) and a specific attribute in the parent table.

Accordingly, even if Jorgensen can be combined with Miura, the combination still fails to disclose the features of amended claim 1.

Claims 3 and 4, in addition to being allowable for their recitation of their own patentable features in the manner claimed, are also patentable due to their dependence from amended claim 1.

Applicant hereby requests a 3-month suspension of prosecution to further search and review prior art and to prepare a preliminary amendment to further claim features to which Applicant believes he is entitled. Please consider this communication a petition for such a

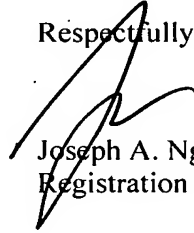
Appl. No. 09/765,058

Amendment dated May 7, 2004

Reply to Office Action dated November 8, 2004

suspension of prosecution. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees or credit any over-payments that may apply to our Deposit Account No. 50-2284 (Order No. AMPSP003).

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph A. Nguyen
Registration No. 37,899

CUSTOMER NO. 32,986

IPSG, P.C.

P.O. Box 700640

San Jose, CA 95170-0640

Tel: 408-257-5500